

October 21, 1998

WASHINGTON -- U.S. Rep. John Olver (D-1st District) announced today that he has secured \$1 million to fund a three-year plastics employment initiative in the Twin Cities area.

"Worklinks is going to be a tremendously successful project in the Twin Cities because the program will provide training and job placement services to low-income residents who are interested in entering the plastics industry," Olver said.

"This program utilizes all the best practices of workforce development in the country, including the use of a sectoral approach. Worklinks to Plastics is a sectoral employment initiative to train low-income residents in the plastics industry, which is one of the fastest growing sectors in the economy."

"These occupations pay livable wages -- from \$9 to \$17 -- that can raise the standard of living for many low-income families in the Twin Cities area."

"This region is one of the major plastics centers in the world -- home to 200 plastics companies and a large number of plastics manufacturers. The plastics industry is a major source of employment in the region."

The CDC's budget has determined that it will cost approximately \$300,000 in the first year to get the program up and running. The program will be a joint effort between the CDC and the Minnesota Department of Economic Development.

For more information on Worklinks, please contact Betsy Hannula, Economic Development Director, at 612-296-6000.

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